

Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Miami Laboratory
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, FL 33149

August 1, 2008

TO: Dr. Joan Browder,
Protected Resources Branch

FROM: Larry Beerkircher,
POP Observer Coordinator

SUBJECT: Longline gear Incidental Take summary for quarter 2, 2008.

The Miami Laboratory Pelagic Observer Program (POP) is providing you with a summary report of the incidental take of marine mammals, turtles, and birds that have been recorded by observers aboard longline vessels for April 1 to June 30, 2008. The POP completed an overall coverage rate of 32.8.1 % of the selected pelagic longline fleet for this quarter (Table 1), which included target coverage of 100% in the Gulf of Mexico during April 1st to June 9th. In addition, the POP monitored effort inside areas normally closed to pelagic longlining as part of a cooperative research project with NOVA Southeastern University, as well as experimental "weak hook" gear testing in the Gulf of Mexico (Table 2). During the quarter, observers recorded one (1) seabird (1-Brown pelican-alive), in addition to fifty-six (56) sea turtles (46-leatherback-alive, 2-leatherback-dead, 1-leatherback-unknown; 7-loggerhead-alive) and four (4) marine mammals (2-Risso's dolphin-alive, 1-Killer whale-alive, 1-Sperm whale-alive) in regular fishery operations. During experimental fishing, observers documented four sea turtles (4) (4-leatherback-alive).

Attached for you are the original Sea Bird Life History (SBLH) form(s) submitted by observers during Quarter 2, along with copies of the associated haul logs. The POP will maintain copies of the SBLH forms in our files until you have completed your data review or entry. I recommend that the original SBLF forms be returned to the POP staff or the file cabinets in Rm 324 when the reviews have been completed.

Attachments:

Sea Bird Life History Form(s); Table (1) of the Incidental Take summary for the second quarter of 2008 by geographical area and effort (sets and hook count) observed in the regular fishery; Table (2) of the Incidental Take summary for the second quarter of 2008 by geographical area and effort (sets and hook count) observed in the experimental fishery.

cc: POP office files;
Guy Davenport, Jim Bohnsack (cover letters only).

Table 1: Percent coverage (by hauls), the incidental take of Protected Resource species (turtles, mammals, seabirds), and hook effort summarized by geographical area for April 1 to June 30, 2008 during regular fishing operations.

(A=Alive, D=Dead, U=Unknown. LB=Leatherback, LH=Loggerhead, O=other)

AREA	TOTAL HAULS OBSERVED	REQUIRED	TURTLES			MAMMALS		BIRDS		
		8% COVERAGE	A	D	U	A	D	A	D	
			LB/LH/O							
GOM-2	562(70.3%)	64	45/	3/0	2	1	4	0	1	0
FEC-3	23(11.5%)	16	0/	1/0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SAB-4	18(3.6%)	40	0/	2/0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MAB-5	11(4.0%)	22	1/	1/0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OFFSHORE	0(0.0%)	8	0/	0/0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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TOTAL	614(32.8%)	150	46/	7/0	2	1	4	0	1	0

Hook effort Summary:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Hook effort</u>
GOM	416,467
FEC	9,797
SAB	14,665
MAB	8,670
TOTAL	449,599

Table 2: Effort (hauls and hooks) and the incidental take of Protected Resource species (turtles, mammals, seabirds summarized by geographical area for April 1 to June 30, 2008 during experimental fishing operations. Hauls outside the GOM were inside closed areas. (A=Alive, D=Dead, U=Unknown. LB=Leatherback, LH=Loggerhead, O=other)

AREA	TOTAL HAULS OBSERVED	TURTLES			MAMMALS		BIRDS	
		A	D	U	A	D	A	D
		LB/LH/O						
GOM-2	61	4/	0/0	0	0	0	0	0
FEC-3	1	0/	0/0	0	0	0	0	0
SAB-4	9	0/	0/0	0	0	0	0	0
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TOTAL	71	4/	0/0	0	0	0	0	0

Hook effort Summary:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Hook effort</u>
GOM	36,897
FEC	500
SAB	4,615
TOTAL	42,012